

Publications of the Week

Tunable Differentiation of Human CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T Cells From Pluripotent Stem Cells

First Authors: Ross Jones (*pictured*) and Kevin Salim | Senior Author: Peter Zandstra
Cell Stem Cell | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Allogeneic CD8⁺ T cells can be made from pluripotent stem cells (PSCs), but deriving CD4⁺ T cells from PSCs has remained a challenge. Researchers found that CD4⁺ vs. CD8⁺ T cell commitment from PSCs can be controlled by fine-tuning the dynamics of Notch and T cell receptor signaling delivered to CD4⁺CD8⁺ double-positive T cells. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

In Mouse and *In Vitro* Models, Bowel Preparation Promotes Pathogen Colonization, Translocation, and Exacerbation of Inflammation

First Authors: Charlotte Clayton (*pictured, left*) and Imogen Porter (*right*) | Senior Author: Carolina Tropini
Cell Reports Medicine | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Colonoscopies require patients to undergo bowel preparation, a laxative cleansing of the intestine's luminal contents. Using mouse and *in vitro* models, researchers found that bowel preparation with the laxative polyethylene glycol rapidly disrupts the gut, transiently increasing susceptibility to infection by *Salmonella* Typhimurium, including a non-motile mutant, and by gut pathobionts derived from ulcerative colitis microbiota. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Three DMCBH Members Appointed to Order of Canada

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Three neuroscience researchers from the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health were recently appointed to the Order of Canada: Drs. Adele Diamond, Janice Eng, and Judy Illes (*pictured*). Considered one of the country's highest honours, the Order of Canada recognizes people across all sectors of society who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to the country. [Read More](#)

Dr. Magdalena Janus Named Sunny Hill BC Leadership Chair in Child Development

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Magdalena Janus (*pictured*), an internationally-renowned developmental scientist, has joined UBC as the Sunny Hill BC Leadership Chair in Child Development. The appointment is made possible through a partnership between the UBC Faculty of Medicine, Sunny Hill Health Centre and the Human Early Learning Partnership, with support from the BC Children's Hospital Foundation and the Leading Edge Endowment Fund. [Read More](#)

Building Capacity for Community-Engaged Research: CTN+ Phase 2 Funding

CIHR Pan-Canadian Network for HIV and STBBI Clinical Trials Research



CTN+ Phase 2 grants from the CIHR Institute of Infection & Immunity have been announced. The Phase 2 initiative aims to strengthen Canada's capacity for inclusive, community-engaged clinical trials in HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections. Drs. Troy Grennan, Melanie Murray, Claudette Cardinal, and Darren Lauscher (*pictured, left to right*) make up the funded BC & Yukon Regional Team. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Acuitas Therapeutics Expands Collaboration with RNA Technologies & Therapeutics Through Strategic Investment

Life Sciences BC



Acuitas Therapeutics announced that it has acquired a majority stake in RNA Technologies & Therapeutics (RNA T&T), a company specializing in the design, optimization, and manufacture of high-quality RNA constructs. This investment will support the growth and development of RNA T&T, allowing it to further develop and scale its operations. [Read More](#)

Welcoming New Assistant Professor Jeff Dong

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



Dr. Jeff Dong (*pictured*) has joined the UBC Department of Microbiology and Immunology as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Dong will study how oxidative stress drives damage in the central nervous system and how we can mitigate it to treat neurodegenerative disease. Specifically, his research is aimed at uncovering the physiological role of oxidized phosphatidylcholines. [Read More](#)

Kelp Is on the Way: New Genomics Data Will Guide Restoration of BC Kelp Forests

Genome BC



Among other factors, climate change and increasingly long, intense periods of marine heatwaves have caused an accelerated decline in kelp forests worldwide, which is a risk to valuable biodiversity. KelpGen is a Genome BC funded project aimed at using genetic informations to support the restoration, conservation, and management of kelp forests in B.C. [Read More](#)

Precision Protein Analysis for Severe Bladder Cancers

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



A new study is the first to examine the complete proteome in muscle-invasive bladder cancers before and after chemotherapy treatment. Published in *Nature Communications*, VCHRI researcher Dr. Peter Black's (*pictured*) study, led by researcher-scientists Drs. Alberto Contreras-Sanz and Gian Negri, uncovered clues to treatment resistance and response. [Read More](#)

Celebrating the Life and Distinguished Career of Dr. Bernard H. (Bernie) Bressler

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



It is with great sadness that VCHRI announces the passing of Dr. Bernie Bressler on December 29, 2025. A distinguished academic, visionary research leader, and trusted mentor, Dr. Bernard H. (Bernie) Bressler played a defining role in shaping health research in B.C. His leadership at VCHRI and UBC helped establish an integrated, high-performing research ecosystem whose impact endures today. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

January 23 9:00 AM	Life Sciences BC's 7th Annual Career Connect Day 2026 Vancouver Convention Centre East
January 28 8:00 PM	Kiuryaq Chan Centre
February 7 10:30 AM	Nature Club: Fish Beaty Biodiversity Museum
February 13 12:00 PM	Peter W. Hochachka Memorial Lecture with Dr. Charles Darveau Michael Smith Laboratories
January 28 6:00 PM	Reimagining the Mind: Innovations in Mental Health Research and Care UBC Robson Square

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

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